



LEGAL PROFESSIONALISM COMMITTEE

June 10, 2016

Matt Sawchak

OUR COMMITTEE'S MISSION STATEMENT (EXCERPT)

The role of the Legal Professionalism Committee is to consider and evaluate possible changes in our system of delivery of legal services.

OUR COMMITTEE'S MISSION STATEMENT (EXCERPT)

- The committee will explore ways to address structural challenges that affect access to justice, including:
 - the barriers that create a lack of affordable legal services for large segments of our population,
 - the costs and debt associated with a legal education,
 - and the challenges of developing and sustaining a legal career.

OUR COMMITTEE'S MISSION STATEMENT (EXCERPT)

- Any change that the committee considers must take into account the core values of our system of justice, including
 - the exercise of independent judgment on behalf of clients,
 - the absence of conflicts, and
 - confidentiality of client communications.

SPEAKERS SO FAR

OCTOBER 6, 2015, SPEAKERS

- Professor William Henderson, Indiana University Maurer School of Law (videotaped)
- Alice Mine, North Carolina State Bar
- Peter Bolac, North Carolina State Bar

NOVEMBER 3, 2015, SPEAKERS

- Dan Lear, Director of Industry Relations, Avvo
- Chas Rampenthal, General Counsel, LegalZoom

DECEMBER 1, 2015, SPEAKERS

- Dean Andrew Perlman, Suffolk University School of Law
- Jaye Meyer, Chair, North Carolina Board of Law Examiners
- Lee Vlahos, North Carolina Board of Law Examiners

FEBRUARY 2, 2016, SPEAKERS

- Jim Leipold, Executive Director, National Association for Law Placement
- Paul Carr, President, Axiom
- Kelly Zitzmann, General Counsel, Axiom

MAY 3, 2016, SPEAKERS

- Reid Phillips, outside counsel for Capital Associated Industries
- Jennifer Lechner, Executive Director, North Carolina Equal Access to Justice Commission
- Sylvia Novinsky, Director, North Carolina Pro Bono Resource Center

AREAS FOR LIKELY RECOMMENDATIONS BY THE COMMITTEE (SUBJECT TO FURTHER COMMITTEE DISCUSSION)

AREA 1: DIRECTLY INCREASING ACCESS TO JUSTICE

- We are likely to endorse a number of initiatives of the North Carolina Equal Access to Justice Commission, such as:
 - Standardization of forms for pro se litigants
 - A study of trial courts' local rules, followed by an effort to standardize or consolidate these rules as much as is reasonable
 - Efforts to increase the training available to pro bono lawyers

AREA 2: CATEGORIES OF LAW-RELATED SERVICES

- We are studying North Carolina's definition of the practice of law.
- We are also studying whether this state should allow, license, and/or certify any other types of providers of law-related services.

AREA 3: REGULATORY ROLES

- We are studying how North Carolina should, in the future, organize how it regulates entry into the practice of law.
- We are also studying how North Carolina should, in the future, organize how it regulates existing lawyers.

AREA 4: STANDARDS AND METHODS FOR REGULATING ENTRY

- We are likely to suggest that another appropriate organization study future methods of assessing candidates for the practice of law.

- The future standards and methods should account for:
 - The evolving scope of the practice of law
 - Possible new categories of providers of law-related services
 - The evolution of law-related services and the evolution of the people who seek to provide those services
 - Clients' needs for competent service, cost-effective service, and consumer protection

QUESTIONS

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CONSIDERING HOW NORTH CAROLINA COURTS
CAN BEST MEET INSTITUTIONAL NEEDS
AND 21ST CENTURY PUBLIC EXPECTATIONS